A marked-up version of the rewritten paragraph(s), and claims is attached hereto.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, 16-20, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Hashimoto et al. (hereinafter Hashimoto). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 calls for registering with the controller that the image on the medium (i.e. the original image being read by the reader) is larger than a predetermined size, then forming with the controller a modified image from the image on the medium. These features are not disclosed or suggested in Hashimoto.

In Fig. 2, Hashimoto discloses a copier with an electro-optical scanner 15, for scanning documents. The copier also has a printing section for printing images on paper. The printing section of the Hashimoto copier includes an optical writing section using a raster scanning laser to "write" processed image data on a photo conductive drum 40 (the latent image on the drum 40 is developed by the developing section and transferred to paper). The copying process is controlled by CPU 130 (i.e. image data generated by the scanner 15 is received by the CPU 130 which controls the writing laser to write the image data on drum 40). The CPU 130 has an image control circuit 132 that generates various kinds of timing signals for the writing laser in order to allow for various editing functions to be performed. These functions include masking, trimming, erasing, image shift (see Col. 8, lines 26-29, and Col. 9, lines 1-4). These functions are selected by the user from function keys on the copier display 239. It is clear that selection of any of these functions does not involve registering, with CPU 130 or any other controller, that the size of the original image (i.e. the image on the document being copied) is larger than a

predetermined size. Rather, the image control circuit 132 or CPU 130 merely varies the timing of the writing laser in order to effect the selected function. For example to effect an image shift, the laser timing signals are changed from the standard timing signals (i.e. the timing signals which cause the laser to generate the latent image on the drum 40 in a standard position wherein the developed image is centered when transferred to paper) so that the writing laser forms the latent image on the drum 40 in a shifted position compared to the standard position. Providing the CPU 130 with the ability of performing user selected editing functions (e.g. masking, trimming, erasing, image shift) as in Hashimoto does not mean that the CPU 130 registers that the image being copied is larger than a predetermined size. Hashimoto does not disclose or suggest registering with the controller that the image on the medium is larger than a predetermined size as called for in Claim 1.

In Col. 10, lines 27-30, Hashimoto discloses that the standard picture display has a sheet-priority magnification change key 268 for effecting the automatic enlargement or reduction of image data in conformity to sheet size selected. Hashimoto fails to disclose how automatic enlargement or reduction of image data in conformity to sheet size is accomplished, and clearly makes no mention whatsoever of registering with the controller that the image on the medium (i.e. the original image) is larger than a predetermined size as called for in Claim 1. The examiner appears to agree with this on page 2 of the action, but still goes on to state that it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, from Hashimoto alone, to consider that automatic image enlargement or reduction in conformity to sheet size includes registering whether the original image is larger than a predetermined size. The

applicants respectively disagree and submit that the examiner is impermissibly using hindsight here.

The bare disclosure in Hashimoto merely of a feature for automatic enlargement/reduction of image data in conformity to sheet size, without more would not make it obvious to one skilled in the art to register (with the controller) that the original image is larger than a predetermined size. The automatic enlargement/reduction of image data in conformity to sheet size may be accomplished without having to register whether the original image is larger than a predetermined size. Rather, the automatic enlargement/reduction of the image data merely for conformity to sheet size may be performed totally independent of the size of the original image. Hence, there would be no desire to register the size of the original image. In effect, automatic enlargement/reduction of the image data to conform to print sheet size may be substantially the same as standard (i.e. not enlarged/reduced) printing operation. The CPU 130 may control the timing signals for the image data to the writing laser so that the image "written" by the laser along a given scan line falls within the boundaries for the print sheet size. For example, if the CPU 130 detects that with standard timing some amount of image data along one or more scan lines "extends" beyond the width boundaries of the selected print sheet using standard timing signals or if the CPU detects that some amount of image data would be "written" on scan lines that would occur beyond the length boundaries of the sheet, the CPU 130 may adjust the signal timing so that the image data is reduced to fit the given boundaries. In other words, the CPU 130 may detect that standard timing signals may cause a "spill over" of image data, and change timing signals to the writing laser, such as by an interactive process until there is no

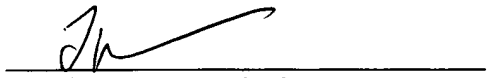
further "spill over" and the reduced image data conforms to the selected sheet size. Clearly, detecting that image data to the writing laser will "spill over" is not the same as registering the size of the original image (the image on the medium being copied) and that the size of the original image is larger than a predetermined size. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art from the disclosure in Hashimoto without more to modify the Hashimoto copier to register (with the controller) that the image on the copied medium is larger than a predetermined size as called for in Claim 1. Claims 1-8 are patentable over the cited prior art and should be allowed. Claims 9, 10, 16 include features similar to Claim 1 and are allowable for the above-noted reasons.

Claim 23 recites that the controller is programmed for registering the size of the (original) image and for comparing the size of the image with a predetermined image size, wherein if the size of the image is larger than the predetermined image size the controller makes available for selection user selectable features including image cropping or image reduction. As noted before with reference to claim 1, Hashimoto fails to disclose or suggest that the controller registers the size of the original image for comparing the size of the image with a predetermined image size. Moreover, Hashimoto discloses image cropping and image resolution features, but these features are always on. Nowhere does Hashimoto disclose or suggest that the controller makes image cropping or image reduction available for user selection if the size or the image being copied is larger than the predetermined image size as otherwise also called for in claim 23.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



2/11/03

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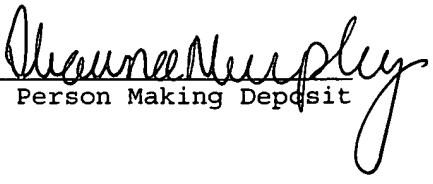
Signature: 
Person Making Deposit

Marked Up Specification Replacement Paragraph(s)

is connected to the reader 18, the print head 28, and the communication device 30. The CPU 20 is capable of controlling the operation of the reader 18, the print head 28, and the communication device 30 in response to commands from a user. The user enters commands via the user interface 26 which is connected to the CPU 20. The user selects the commands from a menu displayed on the display 24 of the device 10. As seen in Fig. 1, the image transfer device 10 may also include a connector 16 for connecting the device 10, using a suitable cable 36, to a computer 14. The CPU 20, reader 18 or print head 28 of the image transfer device 10 may be connected to the connector 16 to receive and send electronic information to the computer 14. The image transfer device 10 may be connected by a local area network (LAN) 304 to other computers (not shown) and/or other multi-function devices 300. The image transfer device 10 may further communicate with yet other devices 300 using a communication line 302 which may be connected to a public switched telephone network (PSTN) or any other suitable communication network such as a cellular network. The image transferring device 10 may include a computer printer, a copier, a facsimile or an optical scanner capability. In the preferred embodiment, the image transferring device 10 performs as a multi-function device which includes one or more of the aforementioned capabilities. In alternate embodiments the device may have more or less than these four capabilities. When the device 10 is connected to the computer 14, a user may operate the device 10 from the computer terminal to perform one or more of the capabilities of the device 10. Otherwise, the

multi-function device 10 is capable of operating as a stand alone device, such as a copier and/or only a facsimile machine. When operating as a copier, the multi-function device 10 may include, for example, image rotation and/or image shift features

suitable location. Preferably, the SAK 47 may be activated by a special access key operator (SA/KO). Users of the device 10 generally cannot access or activate the SAK 47. Correspondingly, the SAK 47 preferably has a suitable locking device (not shown), such as for example, an electronic, or electromechanical lock, which when locked prevents users from activating the SAK 47. The lock of the SAK may be unlocked by the SA/KO using a suitable device for interfacing with and unlocking the SAK lock such as, an electronic or electromechanical key. The SAK 47 communicates with the CPU 20A to send appropriate signals to the CPU when the SAK 47 is activated, which allows the SA/KO to perform special operations otherwise not available to typical users of the device 10. By way of example, in response to activation of the SAK, the CPU 20A may display, on display 24A, a special menu (not shown) containing one or more operating features which are otherwise not available for display. Such features may allow the SA/KO to access and change some of the program instructions, or structures of programs saved in memory 22A as will be described in greater detail below. In the alternative, the CPU of the device may be programmed to perform one or more operations, such as changing a setting or enabling/disabling a feature of the device, in response to receiving an activation signal from the SAK. In still other alternate embodiments, in lieu of using the SAK, the SA/KO may enter a special access code, such as an alphanumeric sequence, using an alphanumeric keypad of the user

interface or a remote communication device in order to command the CPU to perform desired special operations.

Marked Up Claim(s)

23. (Amended) An image transfer device for transferring an image disposed on a medium, the image transfer device comprising:

a controller programmed to operate the image transfer device for performing a number of user selectable image transfer operations; and

a reader operably connected to the controller for reading the image on the medium;

wherein the controller is programmed for registering a size of the image on the medium, and for comparing the size of the image with a predetermined image size in response to user selection of a predetermined image transfer operation, and wherein if the size of the image on the medium is larger than the predetermined image size the controller [has] makes available for selection user selectable features including at least one of a feature for cropping the image, or a feature for reducing the image.